

***Pending Claims***

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A communications system, comprising:  
a plurality of media terminal adapters coupled to a first telephone line;  
a second telephone line;  
an analog telephone coupled to the second telephone line;  
a gateway coupled to the first and second telephone lines and an internet protocol (IP) network, and configured to exchange voice and/or data packets between the IP network, each of the media terminal adapters over the first telephone line, and the analog telephone over the second telephone line,

wherein the gateway receives a packet payload from the IP network and determines if the received packet payload is a voice packet or a data packet, if the received packet payload is a voice packet, the gateway further determines if the voice packet is destined for the analog telephone or a media terminal adapter,

if the voice packet is destined for the analog telephone, the gateway depacketizes the voice packet, generates an analog voice signal, and transmits the analog voice signal via the second telephone line to the analog telephone,

if the voice packet is destined for the media terminal adapter, the gateway reformats the voice packet and transmits the reformatted voice packet via the first telephone line to the media terminal adapter.

2. (Original) The communications system of claim 1 wherein one of the media terminal adapter comprises a telephony device.

3. (Original) The communications system of claim 2 wherein the telephony device comprises a telephone.

4. (Original) The communications system of claim 1 wherein the gateway is configured to exchange the voice and data packets between the network and the media terminal adapters by converting between a first format for the voice and data packets on the network and a second format for the voice and data packets on the telephone line, the first format being different from the second format.

5. (Original) The communications system of claim 4 wherein one of the media terminal adapters comprises a telephone responsive to the voice packets having the second format.

6. (Original) The communications system of claim 5 wherein the telephone comprises a voice processing engine configured to convert between the voice packets having the second format and an analog voice signal in a voiceband frequency.

7. (Original) The communications system of claim 4 further comprising a telephone, and wherein one of the media terminal adapters comprises an adapter configured to exchange the voice packets on the telephone line having the second format with analog voice in a voiceband frequency.

8. (Original) The communications system of claim 1 wherein the gateway comprises a cable modem.

9. (Original) The communications system of claim 1 wherein the gateway comprises a first port coupled to the telephone line and a second port, the communications system further comprising an additional media terminal adapter coupled to the second port.

10. (Original) The communications system of claim 1 wherein the gateway further comprises a voice and data processor configured to exchange the voice and data between the network and the additional media terminal adapter.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating voice over internet protocol (IP), the method comprising:

receiving a packet payload from an IP network by a gateway;

determining by the gateway if the received packet payload is voice packet or data packet;

if the received packet payload is a voice packet, further determining by the gateway if the voice packet is destined for a telephone coupled to a first telephone line or a second network coupled to a second telephone line and having a plurality of media adapter terminals;

depacketizing the voice packet, generating an analog voice signal, and transmitting the analog voice signal over the first phone line by the gateway to the telephone if the voice packet is destined for the telephone; and

reformatting the voice packet and transmitting the reformatted voice packet over the second phone line to the second network by the gateway, if the voice packet is destined for the second network.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein one of the media terminal adapter comprises a telephony device.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the telephony device comprises a telephone.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the voice and data packet exchange comprises converting between a first format for the voice and data packets on the second network and a second format for the voice and data packets on the telephone line, the first format being different from the second format.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein one of the media terminal adapters comprises a telephone responsive to the voice packets having the second format.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising exchanging a second plurality of voice and data packets between the second network and an additional media terminal adapter.

17. (Currently Amended) A gateway for a communication system comprising:

means for receiving a packet payload from an internet protocol (IP) network;

means for determining if the received packet payload is voice packet or data packet;

if the received packet payload is a voice packet, means for determining if the voice packet is destined for a telephone coupled to a first telephone line or a second network coupled to a second telephone line and having a plurality of media adapter terminals;

means for depacketizing the voice packet, means for generating an analog voice signal, and means for transmitting the analog voice signal over the first phone line to the telephone if the voice packet is destined for the telephone; and

means for reformatting the voice packet and transmitting the reformatted voice packet over the second phone line to the second network, if the voice packet is destined for the second network.

18. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 17 further comprising means for converting between a first format for the voice and data packets on the second network and a second format for the voice and data packets on the telephone line, the first format being different from the second format.

19. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 18 wherein one of the media terminal adapters comprises a telephone responsive to the voice packets having the second format.

20. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 19 wherein the telephone comprises means for converting between the voice packets having the second format and an analog voice signal in a voiceband frequency.